

Astronomy Talks & Observing Session

Featuring famed comet hunter **David Levy** and other guest speakers

Presented by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada,
NB Centre, as part of its 2016 Annual General Meeting.



11:00 AM

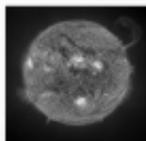
Randy Attwood

*Amateur Astronomy Today:
A Status Report*



2:30 PM

Raffle Tickets Purchase



12:00 PM

Solar Observing

at school parking lot
(weather permitting)



3:15 PM

David Levy

*A Nightwatchman's Journey:
My Life as a Comet Hunter*



4:15 PM

Telescope Prize Draw



1:00 PM

James Mosher

*Building the MHS Observatory:
From Planning to Observing*



1:30 PM

Laura Sponagle

Astronomy Education for Youth



7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Public Observation

at the MHS Observatory
(weather permitting)

November 5th, 2016

Moncton High School

Longfellow Dr, Moncton, NB



Free Public Admission

(limited seating available)

For more information, contact:

Adrien Bordage - abordage@rogers.com

June MacDonald - jcdmacd@gmail.com

Paul Owen - pacificpaul@msn.com

Guest Speakers



David Levy

*A Nightwatchman's Journey:
My life as a comet hunter*

50 years ago, on 17 December 1965 near midnight after taking the dog for a walk, I began my search for comets. That search is still going on. At the time I set it up as a lifetime project because I believed that it might take my whole life to discover a single comet. It turns out that I've been a bit luckier than that; as of today I have found 23 comets. Although none of these comets have dominated the sky from dusk to dawn with tails wrapping themselves around the North star, four of them have been particularly interesting. The one I found in 1988 was a fragment from a larger comet that split apart thousands of years ago, and two years later I found a comet that became fairly bright and visible to the unaided eye during the summer of 1990. In 2010 Wendee, Tom Glinos, and I reported a comet using the telescope Tom had in our backyard. Because the object was not identified as a comet it was named Jarnac after our observatory which in turn is named after my grandfather's cottage near Ripon, Québec. Finally, comet Shoemaker-Levy nine gave humanity its first glimpse into the mystery of the origin of life, as it slammed into Jupiter in the summer of 1994. This talk explores my life as a searcher of comets, and is accompanied by slides and musical selections.



Randy Attwood

*Amateur Astronomy Today:
A Status Report*

Amateur astronomy has changed drastically over the past 50 years. Telescopes made in the basement have been replaced with high quality instruments capable of performing astronomical research. Those new to astronomy are confronted with computerized telescopes and unfortunately, disappearing skies due to light pollution. There is a great opportunity for amateur astronomers to reach members of the public and promote science literacy and critical thinking. Since young people are attracted to astronomy and space science, we have an opportunity to encourage young people to embrace "STEAM" and pursue careers in science and technology.

Bio: Randy Attwood has been looking up for most of his life. His interest in space and astronomy was sparked during the summer of 1969 with the first moon landing. Since then he has observed and photographed the night sky, chased solar eclipses across the globe and witnessed several space shuttle and rocket launches. He often appears in the media to comment on various astronomy and space exploration stories. To recognize his contributions to science public outreach, asteroid 265235 was named Asteroid Attwood in 2012.



James Mosher

*Building the MHS Observatory:
From Planning to Observing*

I have been a science educator for 27 years, and have always tried to provide students with the best opportunity to be exposed to many different science experiences. Over a three year period, I raised money, planned, and constructed an observatory housing a 12" telescope. During my presentation, I will discuss fundraising, the construction process, the flood, the hospital visit, surgery and the people that have made this experience one to remember. As well, I will discuss future plans for bringing astronomy to students and to the entire community of enthusiasts.

Bio: James Mosher is a Chemistry teacher at Moncton High School. He received his BSc from Mount Allison University and his BEd from the University of New Brunswick. James is currently a member of the District ICT Committee and Moncton High School ICT Team. He is currently working on several projects that use Apple technology to transform learning and engage students. Currently Mr. Mosher is working on the Moncton High School Observatory project, the Livescribe Smart Pen Assistive Technology Project and the SWIVL Video Project.



Laura Sponagle

Astronomy Education for Youth

Throughout this talk, I will speak of my experiences in astronomy, and what I think are important tools to use when targeting youth in astronomy education. By exploring the outreach we've done in the past, we can reflect on how to continue sharing our passion for space science with generations to come. I hope to inspire new thoughts on getting people involved in the astronomy community and start a conversation about the importance of collaboration and outreach.

Bio: Laura Sponagle was born in Sussex, N.B. and recently graduated from Mount Allison University with a Bachelor of Science in Physics. Her interest in astronomy began when she was employed by Fundy National Park after high school graduation. Throughout her university years, she pursued astronomy as a teaching and observatory assistant and through outreach events. In September 2016, she will begin her Bachelor of Education degree from St Thomas University where she will continue her passion for the promotion of science.